

December 2013



Yamhill County FSA Updates

Get your acreage reports done before Jan 15th without late filed fees (see article below). Have a happy and safe holiday season from the staff, the county committee and me.

Darca

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Next County Committee

Meeting: Jan. 24, 2014 at
8:00AM

New County Committee Election Ballots Mailed

The County Committee Election ballots that were mailed to producers on Nov. 4 were incorrectly printed with the producer's name and address on the back of the ballot. County committee elections must use a secret ballot so the misprinted ballots cannot be used. Please destroy or recycle the misprinted ballot. If you have already voted, your ballot will be destroyed unopened.

New ballots were mailed to producers on December 20, 2013. These ballots will indicate that they are the corrected ballot in several places, including on the outside of the mailing, on the ballot and on the outside of the return envelope.

The corrected ballot **must** be returned to the Yamhill County FSA Office or postmarked by **January 17, 2014**. All newly elected county committee members will take office February 18, 2014. All county committee members whose term expires on Dec. 31, 2013, will have their term extended to January 31, 2014.

County committee members are an important component of the operations of FSA and provide a link between the agricultural community and USDA. Farmers and ranchers elected to county committees help deliver FSA programs at the local level, applying their knowledge and judgment to make decisions on commodity price support programs; conservation programs; incentive indemnity and disaster programs for some commodities; emergency programs and eligibility. FSA committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws.

To be an eligible voter, farmers and ranchers must participate or cooperate in an FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm may also be eligible to vote.

More information on county committees, such as the new 2013 fact sheet and brochures, can be found on the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/elections or at a local USDA Service Center.

2014 Acreage Reporting Dates

Producers now have until January 15, 2014, to report crops that have a November 15, 2013, or December 15, 2013, reporting deadline without paying a late-file fee. Crops under this waiver include wheat and native and improved grasses intended for grazing or haying. The Risk Management Agency (RMA) did not grant a waiver so producers need to consult their crop insurance agent for deadlines for insured crops.

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit the Yamhill County FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Oregon:

December 15, 2013: Fall alfalfa seed, fall barley, fall canola, perennial hay and pastures, fall mint, onions (planted 8/15 - 9/15), fall wheat and all other fall seeded small grains.

January 2, 2014: Honey (report hives) for NAP producers

January 15, 2014: Apples, blueberries, cherries, cranberries, apricots, peaches, nectarines, grapes, pears, plums/prunes.

May 15, 2014: Cabbage (fresh or processed) planted 3/12 - 4/20

May 30, 2014: Nursery (NAP coverage)

July 15, 2014: Spring alfalfa seed, spring barley, cabbage (fresh or processed) planted 4/21-6/10, cabbage for seed, spring canola, field corn, dry beans, dry peas, grass for seed or sod, green peas, spring mint, mustard, oats, onions (planted 2/15-5/15), onions for seed, potatoes, processing beans, sugars beets, sweet corn, spring wheat and all other crops not listed under another dates.

August 15, 2014: Cabbage (fresh or processed) planted 6/11 - 8/10

September 30, 2014: Aquaculture, Christmas trees, ginseng, turfgrass sod, mushrooms, floriculture (including seed) - all for NAP coverage.

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendars days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.
- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "cover only," "green manure," "left standing," or "seed," then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

Late file fees will be assessed for 2013 crops reported after September 15, 2013, and 2014 crops reported after January 15, 2014 at \$46 a farm.

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact the Yamhill County FSA office at 503-472-1474 x2.

Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches. While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of socially disadvantaged applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere. For more information please contact our loan staff at the numbers listed above based on your county location or the location of the property you are interested in purchasing.

Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL) - Grain & Honey Loans

Short-term financing is available by obtaining low interest commodity loans for eligible harvested production. A nine-month Marketing Assistance Loan provides financing that allows producers to store production for later marketing. The crop may be stored on the farm or in the warehouse.

Loans are available for producers who share in the risk of producing the eligible commodity and maintain beneficial interest in the crop through the duration of the loan. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity, responsibility for loss because of damage to the commodity and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, it is ineligible for a loan, even if you regain beneficial interest.

Rural Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

Contact our loan staff listed above for help preparing and processing the application forms.

Dates to Remember

Dec 24@ 12:00 PM - Service Center closes for Christmas

Jan 1 - Service Center is closed for New Year's Day

Jan 2 - Honey/Hive Reports due for NAP coverage

Jan 15 - Acreage Reports due - see article above

Jan 17 - Ballot due into the office or post office

Jan 20 - Service Center is closed for Martin Luther King Jr Birthday

Jan 24 - COC meeting with ballots counted

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).